

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 6, 2005, has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application with claims 3-8, 11-16, 19-24 and 28 objected to as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the title was objected to as being non-descriptive.

Applicant respectfully traverses the objection to the title, but in the interest of expediting prosecution has replaced the original title with a more descriptive title.

In paragraph 4 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 17, 18 and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mao.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. Applicant respectfully submits that Mao fails to disclose, teach or suggest Applicant's invention as recited in the claims.

According to Mao, the seed layers 550a and 550b may be made of TiW "OR" a variety of other alloys (i.e., W, Mo, Cr, V, Nb, Ta, Ti, Hf and Zr as listed in Table I). Mao also states that any alloy between an element with bcc structure and another with hcp structure from Table I may be used for the seed layers 550a and 550b. For example, alloys CrTi, CrW and MoTi may all be used.

Still further, Mao indicates that, alternatively, a bilayer formed between a layer of any of these alloys and a metallic layer of Cr, Ta, CZN and soft magnetic powder such as Sendust™ (an Fe--Al--Si alloy) may be used for the seed layer.

Accordingly, Mao merely suggests that the seedlayer may be 1) TiW; an alloy of W, Mo, Cr, V, Nb, Ta, Ti, Hf or Zr; 3) a bcc/hcp alloy formed using W, Mo, Cr, V, Nb, Ta, Ti, Hf or Zr;

or 4) a bilayer comprising an alloy of W, Mo, Cr, V, Nb, Ta, Ti, Hf or Zr and a metallic layer chosen from the group comprising Cr, Ta, CZN and Sendust™.

However, Mao fails to suggest a hard bias seedlayer having a Si layer and either a Cr or CrMo layer. While the list includes Cr as a seedlayer component, Mao fails to suggest a hard bias seedlayer that includes Si.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Mao fails to teach, disclose or suggest the invention as recited in the claims.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicant, David W. Lynch, at 423-757-0264.

Respectfully submitted,

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